

Of the Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

4 September 1980

Vice Admiral G. E. R. Kinnear II, USN
Commander Naval Air Force
U.S. Atlantic Fleet
Naval Air Station
Norfolk, Virginia 23511

Dear Admiral Kinnear:

I want to thank you for arranging my visit last weekend to the USS NIMITZ. My expectations when I arrived on board were high based on what I had read, and I can only say that those expectations were surpassed in every respect. The dedication and professionalism of the officers and crew of the NIMITZ and its aircraft complement were quite obvious even to the first-time visitor.

I especially want to thank you for arranging for me to fly in the A-6 aircraft. It certainly was an experience I shall never forget. Stan Turner immensely enjoyed my account of the flight, including the night landing, and fully appreciated my apprehension until the moment of launch.

I enjoyed the opportunity to meet you and to talk with you about the carrier as well as the problems of the contemporary Navy. Please pass on my appreciation to Jim Lois for all his help in arranging the visit, to Admiral Compton and Captain Batzler for their hospitality, and to Lieutenant Bud Jewett for his reassuring professionalism while giving an inexperienced feather merchant the ride of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Robert M. Gates
Executive Assistant
to the Director

STAT

*P.S. Fred Hitz and [Redacted] reciprocate
your greetings. They are real fans of yours.*

STAT